

Message Text

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FOR HODDING CARTER FROM S/PRS

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TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.)

SUBJECT: MORNING TRAVELLING PRESS SUMMARY, DECEMBER 12

NO. 17

WIRES

AP -- NO BYLINE FROM AMMAN

LEAD: "SECSTATE VANCE ARRIVED IN JORDAN TODAY TO TRY TO
PERSUADE KING HUSSEIN TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO THE CAIRO
TALKS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EGYPT."

OTHER POINTS:

-- IN DAMASCUS, KHADDAM SAID ASSAD WILL REFUSE TO RECEIVE
VANCE IF HE IS CARRYING MESSAGE FROM ISRAEL. BAGHDAD
RADIO SAID VANCE CARRYING TWO LETTERS FROM BEGIN, ONE FOR
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HUSSEIN AND ONE FOR VANCE. US DENIED VANCE CARRYING SUCH
LETTERS.

-- VANCE SAID HIS TALKS SHOWED ISRAEL DEDICATED TO PEACE
AND WORKING TOWARDS THAT GOAL. AIDES EXUDED OPTIMISM,

SAYING BOTH SIDES SHOWING CONSIDERABLY MORE FLEXIBILITY IN
PRIVATE TALKS THAN IN THEIR PUBLIC POSITIONS.

-- REPORTERS TOLD JORDAN EXPECTED TO SEND DELEGATION TO

CAIRO SOMETIME NEXT YEAR TO JOIN NEGOTIATIONS. SYRIA REMAINED PUBLICLY ADAMANT IN ITS OPPOSITION TO THE TALKS. IN ABU DHABI, KHADDAM SAID SYRIA WOULD REFUSE TO RESPOND TO "CURRENT INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS" IN THE MIDEAST.

-- ASSAD HAS BEEN TOURING PERSIAN GULF STATES. KHADDAM CLAIMED HIS TRIP A SUCCESS BECAUSE NONE OF THOSE STATES SHOWED ANY INCLINATION TO COOPERATE WITH THE ENEMY, BUT NONE OF THEM GAVE ANY INDICATION OF TAKING SIDES WITH ASSAD AGAINST SADAT, EITHER.

UPI -- ANDERSON FROM AMMAN

LEAD: "SECSTATE VANCE, SEEKING TO SPARK MIDEAST PEACE MOMENTUM, BEGAN TALKS TODAY WITH KING HUSSEIN ON HOW TO BRING JORDAN INTO THE ARAB-ISRAELI NEGOTIATING PROCESS."

OTHER POINTS:

-- REPORTERS TOLD US BELIEVES HUSSEIN WANTS TO JOIN TALKS AND THAT A MEANS FOR THIS WILL BE FOUND, ALTHOUGH IT MAY NOT BE UNTIL FIRST RECESS IN CAIRO CONF.

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-- US OFFICIALS IN AMMAN BELIEVE HUSSEIN HAS PERHAPS LARGER STAKE IN PEACE PROCESS THAN ANY OTHER MIDEAST LEADER BUT WANTS ISRAELI ASSURANCES THEY WILL MAKE SOME CONCESSION ON WEST BANK AND JERUSALEM.

-- BEGIN SAID HE HOPED CAIRO CONF WILL PRODUCE SETTLEMENT BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL WHICH CAN THEN BE USED AS MODEL FOR TREATIES BETWEEN ISRAEL AND OTHER ARAB NEIGHBORS.

REUTERS -- SAMIR AL-SHAMI FROM AMMAN

LEAD: "SECSTATE VANCE ARRIVED IN JORDAN TODAY, DECLARING THAT HE WANTED TO KEEP THE MOMENTUM GOING TOWARD A COMPREHENSIVE PEACE SETTLEMENT IN THE MIDEAST."

-- INFORMED SOURCES SAID VANCE WOULD TRY TO PERSUADE JORDAN TO TAKE PART IN CAIRO TALKS.

-- ON ARRIVAL, VANCE SAID HE HAD COME TO MIDEAST TO SEE WHAT COULD BE DONE TO ADVANCE JUST, LASTING, AND COMPREHENSIVE PEACE. SAID HUSSEIN WAS TRUE AND VALUED FRIEND OF US WHOSE ADVICE WAS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT.

-- IN JERUSALEM, US OFFICIALS SAID VANCE'S VISITS TO EGYPT AND ISRAEL HAVE DRAMATICALLY LIFTED AMERICAN HOPES THAT ARABS AND ISRAELIS MOVING CLOSER TO PEACE. SAID THEY FOUND A FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE OF ATMOSPHERE SINCE SADAT'S

TRIP TO JERUSALEM LAST MONTH.

NEWSPAPERS

NY TIMES -- GWERTZMAN FROM JERUSALEM

LEAD: "SECSTATE VANCE SAID TODAY THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD DO ALL IT COULD TO MEND THE SPLIT IN THE ARAB WORLD AND THEREBY IMPROVE THE CHANCES OF ACHIEVING AN OVERALL UNCLASSIFIED

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ARAB-ISRAELI PEACE AGREEMENT."

OTHER POINTS:

-- BEGIN SAID ISRAEL NOT TRYING TO DIVIDE THE ARABS, PLEDGED TO WORK FOR COMPREHENSIVE PEACE SETTLEMENT.

-- VANCE SEEMED SATISFIED THAT EFFORT WOULD BE MADE AT CAIRO TO ADVANCE PEACE PROCESS. SAID US HAD NO DIFFERENCES WITH ISRAEL OVER CONFERENCE.

-- REPORTERS TOLD US EXPECTS HUSSEIN TO JOIN CONFERENCE BEFORE IT ENDS. ASSAD NOT EXPECTED TO PARTICIPATE UNTIL TALKS MOVE TO GENEVA.

-- VANCE SAID TO BE CONVINCED SADAT'S INITIATIVES HAD CAUSED MAJOR CHANGE IN ATTITUDES IN BOTH ISRAEL AND EGYPT AS WELL AS JORDAN.

-- AT PRESS CONF, BEGIN SAID THERE WAS REASON TO BE OPTIMISTIC ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR PEACE. INSISTED EVERYTHING WAS NEGOTIABLE, REFUSED TO GO INTO DETAIL. US OFFICIALS HAVE CALLED ON ISRAEL TO SHOW COURAGE AND MATCH SADAT'S FLEXIBILITY.

-- VANCE HAS COME TO MIDEAST WITH TWO PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVES: TO OBTAIN PLEDGES FROM EGYPT AND ISRAEL THEY WOULD NOT SEEK SEPARATE PEACE, AND TO URGE SYRIA, JORDAN AND LEBANON TO REMAIN COMMITTED TO PEACE AND EVENTUALLY TO JOIN NEGOTIATIONS. HE MADE UNUSUALLY STRONG PLEA FOR ARAB UNITY. IN PAST, AMERICAN OFFICIALS OFTEN SEEMED TO FEAR ARAB UNITY WOULD RESULT IN COORDINATED WAR AGAINST ISRAEL, BUT NOW VANCE SAYS UNITY IMPROVES CHANCES FOR PEACE. UNCLASSIFIED

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-- VANCE AIDES SAY US WILL MAKE DETERMINED EFFORT IN COMING DAYS AND WEEKS TO BREAK DOWN OPPOSITION TO CAIRO TALKS. ARABS WILL BE TOLD THAT IF THEY REFUSE TO NEGOTIATE, THEY MAY BRING ABOUT JUST WHAT THEY OPPOSE -- A

SEPARATE PEACE.

WASH POST -- RONALD KOVEN FROM JERUSALEM

LEAD: "ISRAELI PM BEGIN SAID TODAY THAT "THERE IS REASON TO BE OPTIMISTIC" ABOUT THE PEACE TALKS THAT ARE ABOUT TO START IN CAIRO."

OTHER POINTS:

-- US OFFICIALS SAY THEY HAVE NEVER BEFORE SEEN SO MUCH FLEXIBILITY AND WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES AS THEY FOUND IN CAIRO AND JERUSALEM THIS WEEK. BOTH SIDES NOW SAID TO BE SUGGESTING WAYS TO BRIDGE GAPS BETWEEN THEM RATHER THAN USING THOSE DIFFERENCES AS PRETEXTS TO BLOCK FURTHER DISCUSSION. US OFFICIALS EXPRESSED OPTIMISM THAT JORDAN AND LEBANON -- AND EVENTUALLY SYRIA -- WILL JOIN PEACE PROCESS.

-- AT PRESS CONF, BEGIN STRESSED ISRAEL MAKING SERIOUS EFFORT TO ESTABLISH PEACE IN MIDEAST.

-- VANCE HAS NEVER SEEMED SO RELAXED AND PLEASED ABOUT MIDEAST DIPLOMACY, ACCORDING TO THOSE WHO HAVE ACCOMPANIED HIM ON PREVIOUS VISITS. NEVERTHELESS, US REALIZES THERE ARE DIFFICULT PROBLEMS YET TO BE RESOLVED.

-- ISRAELIS SAY EGYPTIANS TOLD VANCE THEY WANTED TO DISCUSS PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION AT PEACE TALKS, FINAL ISRAELI BORDERS, AND TIMETABLE FOR WITHDRAWAL. ISRAELIS WANT TO TALK ABOUT NATURE OF PEACE.
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-- PRIVATELY, ISRAELIS SAY THEY WANT TO SPEND OPENING PHASE OF CONFERENCE SEEING WHAT EGYPTIANS HAVE TO OFFER.

-- THOSE WITH ACCESS TO BEGIN'S PERSONAL VIEWS, HOWEVER, SAY HE IS CAUGHT UP IN SPIRIT OF RETHINKING OLD POSITIONS.

-- THOUGH BOTH BEGIN AND VANCE INSISTED CAIRO TALKS NOT MEANT TO PRODUCE SEPARATE PEACE, BEGIN HINTED BROADLY HE IS INTERESTED IN SEPARATE TREATY WITH EGYPT THAT WOULD SERVE AS "SAMPLE" FOR LATER TREATIES WITH ISRAEL'S OTHER NEIGHBORS.

-- US OFFICIALS SAID THEY EXPECTED SYRIA TO COME INTO NEGOTIATIONS ONLY MUCH LATER, AND TO HAVE HOSTILE PUBLIC POSITION. US SAID TO BE URGING SYRIANS AND OTHERS NOT TO CLOSE OPTIONS. SAUDI ARABIA, WHILE NOT COMMENTING PUBLICLY, SAID TO HAVE DECIDED TO GO ALONG WITH SADAT.

-- IN DEFINITE CHANGE OF TONE, BEGIN SAID PROBLEM OF "PALESTINIAN ARABS" WOULD BE DISCUSSED IN CAIRO. US OFFICIALS SAY THEY SATISFIED ISRAEL WILLING TO COME TO GRIPS WITH PALESTINIAN PROBLEM.

-- MEANWHILE, OTHER CHANNELS FOR EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI DIALOGUE SEEMED TO BE OPENING UP. MURABAK PREPARING TO GO TO PARIS AS CAIRO TALKS OPEN, JUST AS DAYAN PREPARING TO DROP OUT OF SIGHT, HAVING PUT OFF APPOINTMENT THURSDAY WITH VISITING BELGIAN FONMIN.

WALL ST JOURNAL -- RAY VICKER (NO DATELINE)

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LEAD: "BASIC ISSUES SEPARATING ARABS AND ISRAELIS ARE LIKELY TO BE NEGOTIATED IN THE CAIRO PEACE CONFERENCE THAT OPENS WEDNESDAY, NOT JUST PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING NEGOTIATIONS AT GENEVA. THUS, THE CAIRO CONFERENCE, OSTENSIBLY BEING HELD TO PREPARE FOR A BROADENED GENEVA PEACE MEETING, CURRENTLY IS OVERSHADOWING ANY LATER MEETING IN SWITZERLAND."

OTHER POINTS:

-- US GOAL IS STILL TO WORK FOR GENEVA CONFERENCE; EGYPT AND ISRAEL PAY LIP SERVICE TO THAT IDEA. BUT THERE IS NO DOUBT EGYPT WANTS FAR MORE THAN PROCEDURE TO BE DISCUSSED AT CAIRO. IT WANTS TO DRAW UP BROAD SET OF PRINCIPLES FOR FINAL SETTLEMENT.

-- WHILE VANCE TRAVELS IN MIDEAST, HUSSEIN AND ASSAD ALSO SCURRYING ABOUT TRYING TO SELL POSITIONS. ONE EGYPTIAN SOURCE SAID SADAT MAY TRAVEL SOON AS WELL.

-- VANCE MAKING CLEAR THAT GENEVA CONF REMAINS US OBJECTIVE, AND TELLING ARABS HE BELIEVES USSR SHARES SAME OBJECTIVE.

-- US OFFICIALS DON'T SAY SO PUBLICLY, BUT IT IS EVIDENT THEY ARE WORRIED BY PROSPECT OF A SEPARATE PEACE BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL, WHICH WOULD LEAVE OPEN SORE FESTERING IN MIDEAST AND MIGHT RADICALIZE STATES SUCH AS SYRIA AND JORDAN. US SOURCES KEEP INSISTING LOUDLY THAT EGYPT AND ISRAEL HAVE BOTH GIVEN ASSURANCES THEY WANT COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT. "BUT THE VERY LOUDNESS OF THIS AMERICAN CONTENTION SEEMS TO SAY MORE ABOUT AMERICAN CONCERNS."
-- ON CURRENT TRIP, VANCE ALSO SERVING "AS RUSSIA'S CHAMPION," SEEKING TO CONVINCE PARTIES SOVIETS CAN CONTRIBUTE TO PEACE BY PARTICIPATING IN NEGOTIATIONS.

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-- UP UNTIL VANCE'S ARRIVAL IN JERUSALEM, ISRAELIS HAD NOT INTENDED TO GO TO CAIRO WITH PACKAGE OF PROPOSALS. NOW IT IS BEING ASKED TO FORMULATE IDEAS ABOUT KEY QUESTIONS PERTAINING TO A FINAL SETTLEMENT.

RADIO/TV NETWORKS

CBS RADIO -- DOUG TUNNELL

AT A STATEMENT ON HIS ARRIVAL AT AMMAN AIRPORT, VANCE SAID THAT KING HUSSEIN'S ADVICE AND COUNSEL AT THIS TIME IS OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE. A SENIOR OFFICIAL IN THE SECRETARY'S PARTY HAS SAID THAT HUSSEIN IS EXPECTED TO JOIN ANWAR SADAT'S PEACE INITIATIVE IN ITS LATER STAGES, BUT HUSSEIN HAS DECLINED HIS INVITATION TO THE CAIRO MEETING SCHEDULED FOR LATER THIS WEEK. AND DIPLOMATS HERE DO NOT EXPECT THE JORDANIAN MONARCH TO CHANGE THAT POSITION. HE HAS TAKEN A MIDDLE-OF-THE-ROAD STAND ON SADAT'S DIPLOMACY AND APPOINTED HIMSELF A MEDIATOR FOR THOSE ARABS WHO HAVE BITTERLY REJECTED IT.

WHEN VANCE MEETS WITH HUSSEIN LATER TODAY HE IS EXPECTED TO SOUND OUT THE KING ON SYRIA'S HARD-LINE POSITION AGAINST THE SADAT PLAN. HUSSEIN HAS BEEN IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH SYRIAN PRESIDENT HAFEZ ASSAD RECENTLY AND SOME OFFICIALS HERE BELIEVE THE KING WILL NOT ACT AGAINST THE SYRIAN HARD-LINERS IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

NBC -- RICHARD VALERIANI, "TODAY"

SECSTATE VANCE LEFT ISRAEL FEELING THAT THE ISRAELI NEGOTIATING POSITION IS MORE FLEXIBLE THAN BEFORE, AND IT IS BELIEVED THAT ISRAEL IS NOW PREPARED TO COME TO GRIPS
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WITH THE DIFFICULT PALESTINIAN ISSUE. VANCE SAID THAT HE HAS BEEN MUCH ENCOURAGED BY HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH ISRAELI LEADERS. NEITHER HE NOR OTHER AMERICAN OFFICIALS WOULD COMMENT ON CONTINUING REPORTS OF SECRET PEACE TALKS BETWEEN THE ISRAELIS AND THE EGYPTIANS IN ADVANCE OF THEIR DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS IN CAIRO NEXT WEEK.

FROM ISRAEL, VANCE FLEW TO JORDAN WHERE HE WILL TALK TO KING HUSSEIN THIS AFTERNOON ABOUT JOINING THE CAIRO CONFERENCE. THE JORDANIANS ARE REPORTEDLY PREPARED TO DO SO AT SOME POINT IN THE FUTURE, ALTHOUGH THEY HAVE NOT YET

GIVEN ANY PUBLIC INDICATION OF THEIR INTENT. VANCE WOULD ALSO GET A REPORT ON KING HUSSEIN'S RECENT EFFORT TO

RECONCILE THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN EGYPT AND SYRIA.

FOR THE PAST FOUR YEARS, THE AMERICAN SECRETARY OF STATE HAS BEEN COMING TO THIS PART OF THE WORLD TO MEDIATE BETWEEN THE ARABS AND THE ISRAELIS, BUT THIS TIME HIS PRIMARY PURPOSE IS TO MEDIATE THE DIFFERENCES AMONG THE ARABS THEMSELVES.

ABC -- JOHN SCALI, "GOOD MORNING AMERICA"

...SECRETARY VANCE ARRIVES FOR CONFIDENTIAL TALKS WITH KING HUSSEIN TODAY AMIDST OPTIMISTIC PREDICTIONS THAT JORDAN WILL JOIN THE CAIRO PEACE TALKS EARLY NEXT YEAR. JORDAN'S PRIME MINISTER JOINED IN WELCOMING VANCE ON THIS, THE HALF-WAY POINT IN HIS MIDDLE EASTERN TOUR. THE SECRETARY TOLD WHY HE BELIEVES HIS TALKS WITH HUSSEIN WILL BE IMPORTANT.

-- VANCE: "HIS MAJESTY IS A TRUE AND VALUED FRIEND AND
-- HIS ADVICE AND COUNSEL AT THIS TIME IS PARTICULARLY
-- IMPORTANT TO US."

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VANCE WILL BE IN A POSITION TO TELL KING HUSSEIN HOW DEEPLY IMPRESSED HE IS WITH THE FLEXIBILITY DISPLAYED BY PRESIDENT SADAT AND PRIME MINISTER BEGIN IN HIS STRATEGY TALKS WITH THEM. IT IS NOW KNOWN THAT ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN NEGOTIATORS HAVE BEEN MEETING SECRETLY FOR DAYS AND THAT IMPORTANT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE ON SUCH TOUCHY ISSUES AS THE FUTURE OF PALESTINE. VANCE WILL WANT TO FIND OUT IF IT IS TRUE AS HAS BEEN REPORTED THAT KING HUSSEIN WILL BE READY TO JOIN DESPITE SERIOUS OBJECTIONS ONCE HE FINDS OUT THAT THE CAIRO TALKS ARE ON THE WAY TO SUCCESS. CHRISTOPHER

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